



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BREVARD COUNTY CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS  
IN PRISON ON FEDERAL FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS CHARGES**

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Orlando, Florida - United States District Judge Gregory A. Presnell today sentenced JOSEPH LEE HOLMES, JR., age 30, of Melbourne, Florida, to 300 months in federal prison on a multiple-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base ("crack" cocaine) and cocaine hydrochloride (Count One); possession with the intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base ("crack" cocaine) (Count Two); possession with the intent to distribute cocaine hydrochloride (Count Three); carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime (Count Four); and, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon - armed career criminal (Count Six). In addition to the 25 year prison sentence, HOLMES also must serve eight years in a supervised release program and pay a \$500 special monetary assessment. HOLMES was found guilty of the charges after a jury trial on January 25, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Holmes and a co-defendant, Jonathan Johnson, conspired to manufacture and sell "crack" and powder cocaine from a rented duplex at 2426 Stone Street, Melbourne, Florida, in the beginning of 2006. After extensive surveillance, the City of Melbourne Police Department executed a search warrant at the

duplex on April 22, 2006. Officers discovered "crack" and powder cocaine intended for distribution, packaging materials for narcotics, three loaded firearms, 118 rounds of ammunition, a video surveillance system, two-way radios, a digital scale and \$2,550 in United States Currency. The co-defendant, Johnson, previously entered a guilty plea to narcotics and firearms charges; he was sentenced to 117 months' imprisonment by the Court on March 26, 2007.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the City of Melbourne Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard County, State Attorney Norm Wolfinger is calling the initiative "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Craig S. Forrester of the Brevard County State Attorney's Office.